



# Caples Ecological Restoration Project

May 2, 2017

Teresa Riesenhuber  
Eldorado National Forest

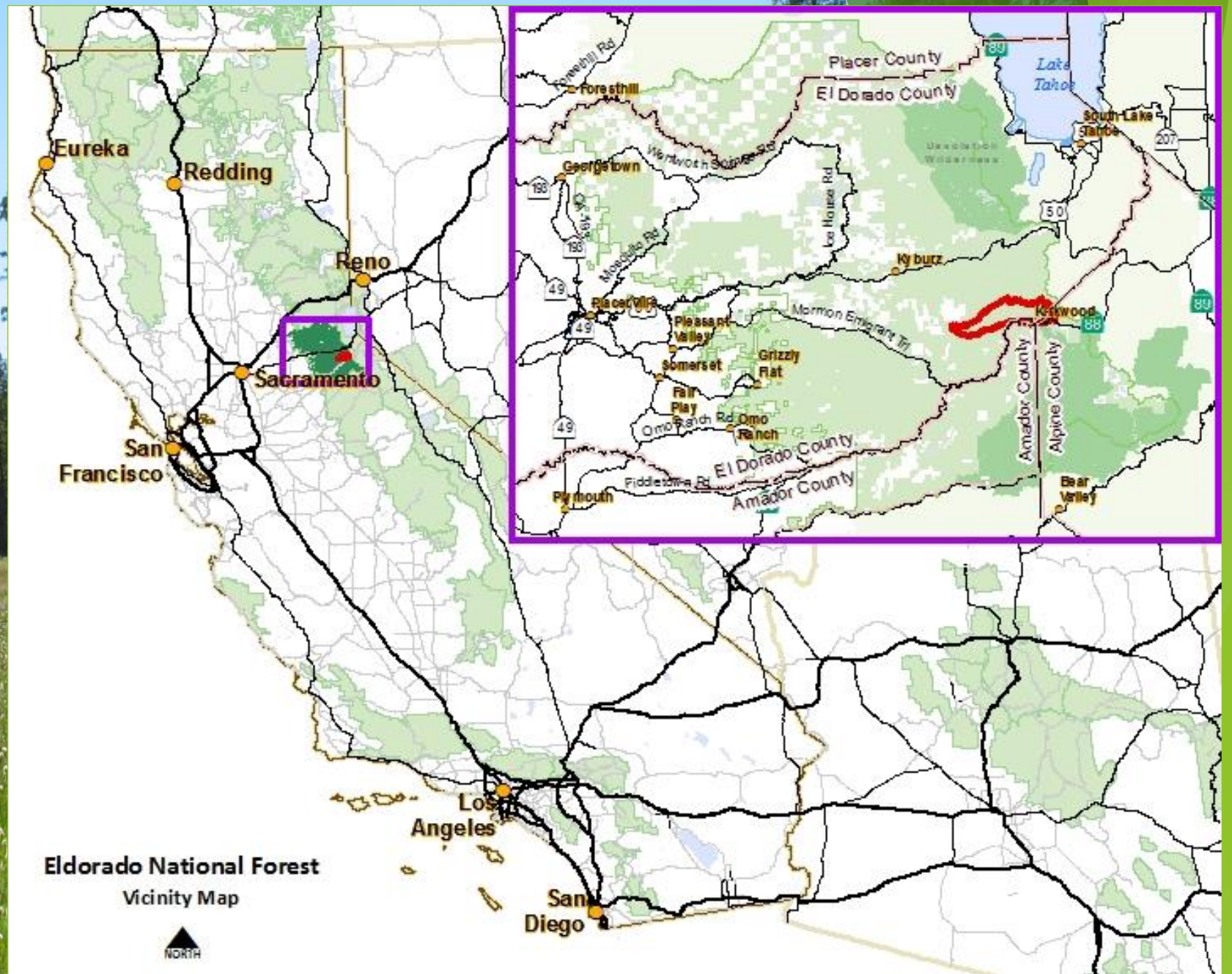


# Background

- ▶ Summer 2010 - First Field Trip
- ▶ Partnership with El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)
  - ▶ Received SNC planning grant; Late 2012
- ▶ NEPA - CE: February & September 2016
  - ▶ Prescribed Understory Burn: 4,400 acres lower elevations
  - ▶ Vegetative Island Burn: 4,400 acres higher elevations
  - ▶ Meadow Restoration: ~ 25 acres; fell conifers <9" d.b.h. and girdle 9-30"
  - ▶ Aspen Restoration: ~ 25 acres; fell conifers <9" d.b.h. and girdle 9-30"
  - ▶ Trail Reroute: ~ ½ mile around Jake Schneider Meadow







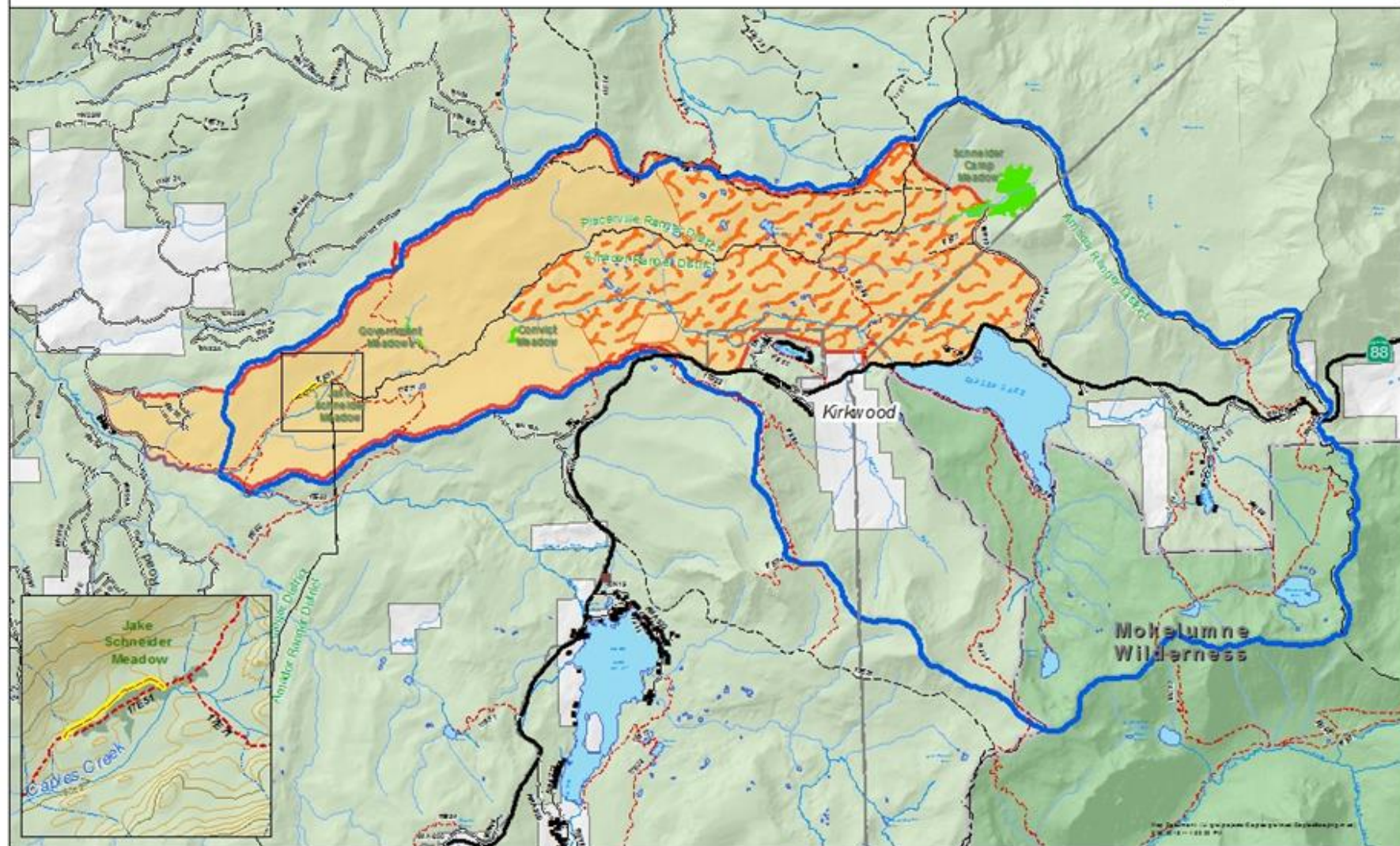




## Caples Ecological Restoration Project

Amador and Placerville Ranger Districts

Eldorado National Forest













South Aspect:  
Montane Oak  
and Shrub





# Government Meadows











# Government Meadows







# Jake Schneider Meadow





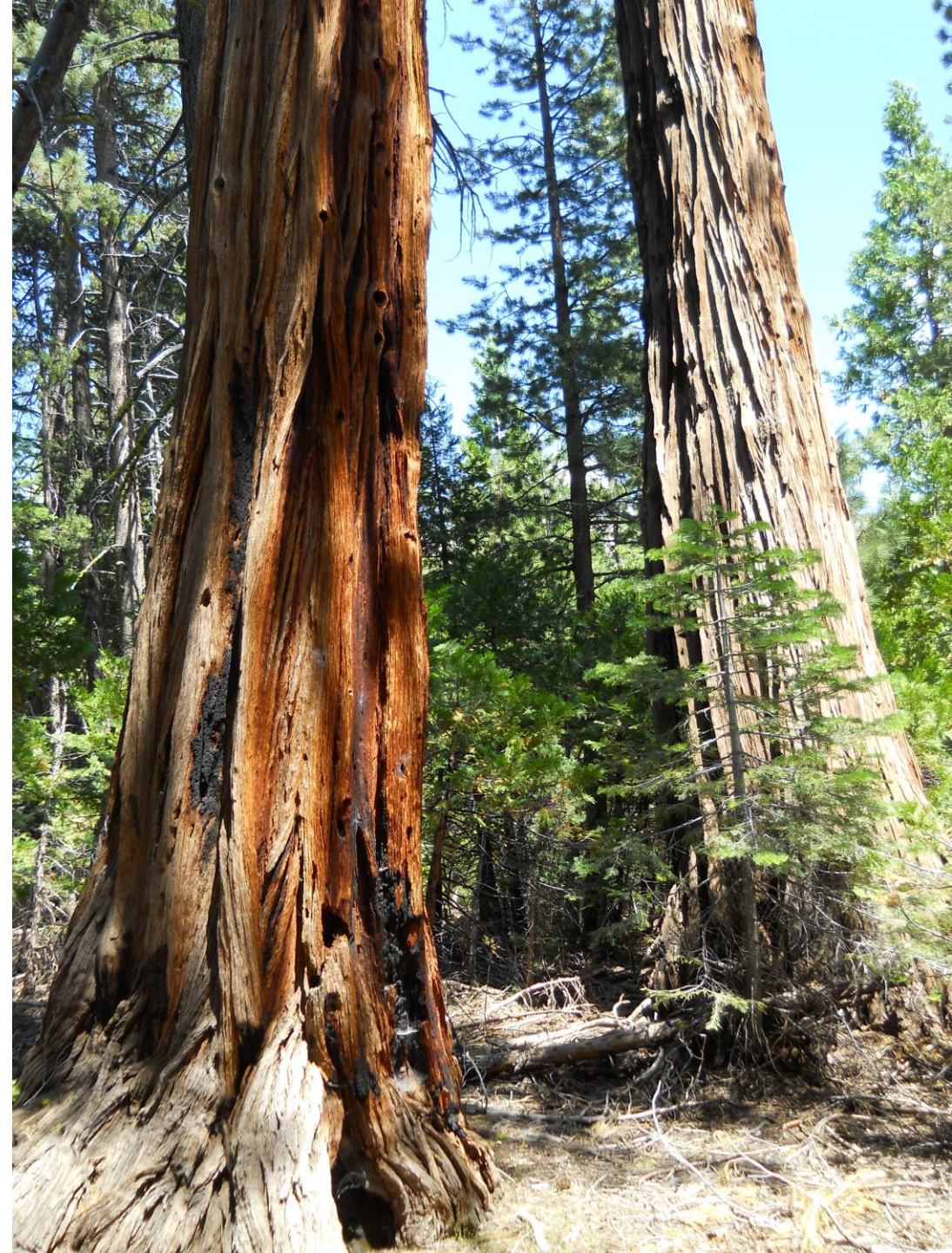


# Caples Creek





# Legacy Conifers

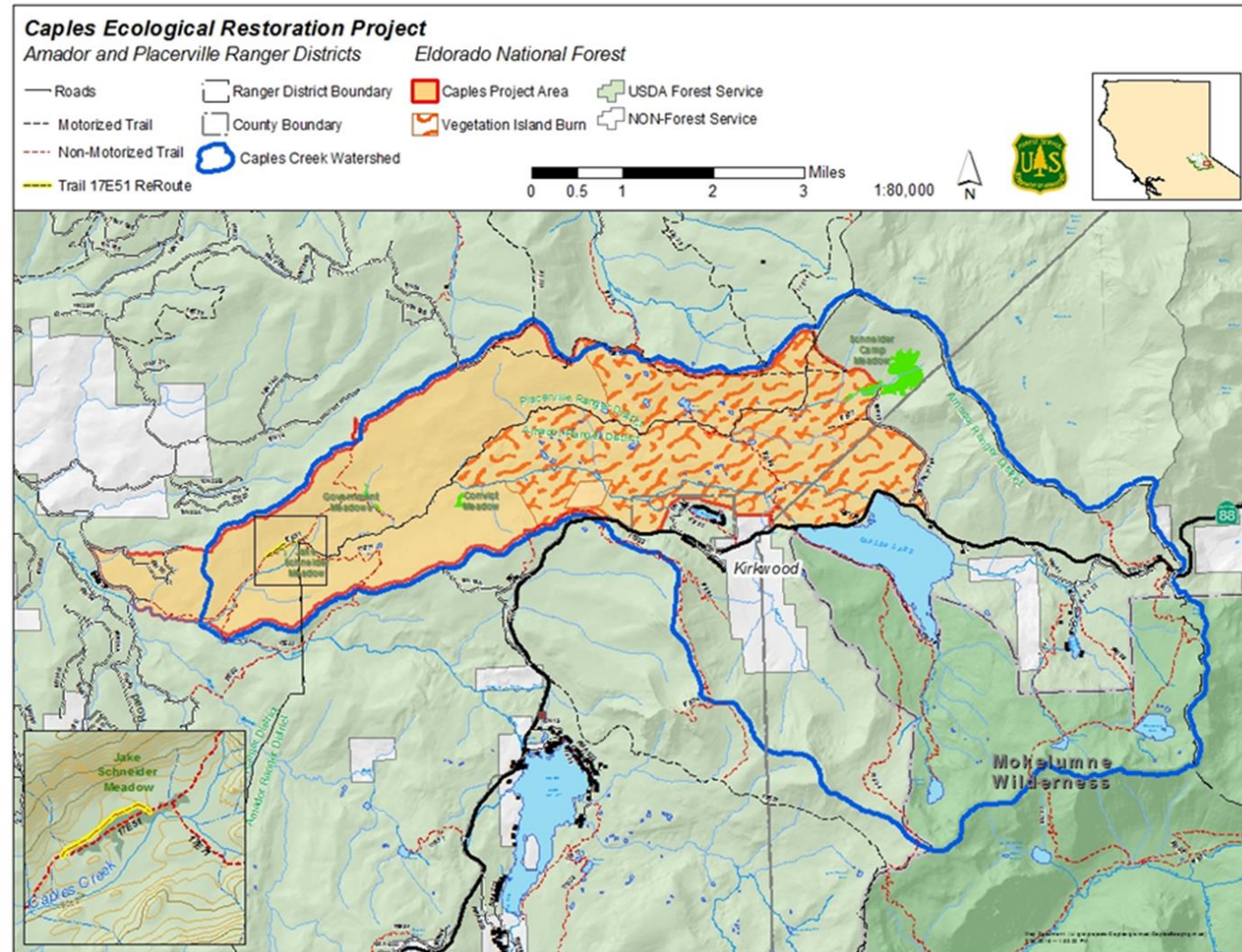
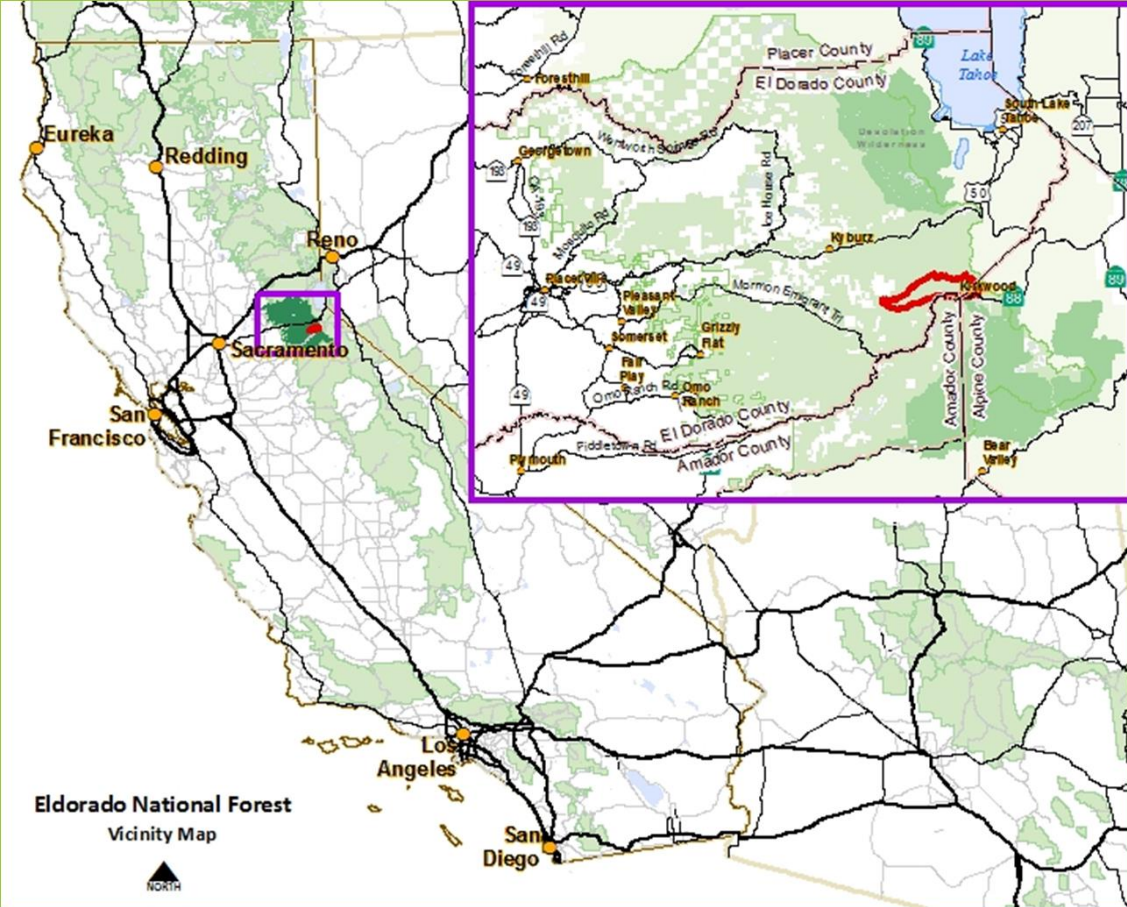




# Issues and Concerns

- ▶ Limited Burn Windows
  - ▶ High elevation: Understory burn would most likely occur before first storm
  - ▶ Resources Available due to “in season” burn window
  - ▶ Travel and Logistics
- ▶ Multiple Air Districts could be affected
  - ▶ Southwest winds = smoke into Tahoe and Desolation Wilderness
  - ▶ North winds = smoke into Kirkwood, Hwy 88 and Mokelumne Wilderness
  - ▶ West winds = smoke into the Great Basin
  - ▶ Nighttime smoke expected to settle into the Southfork American River affecting El Dorado County and eastern Sacramento County
- ▶ Backlash due to location and the social media quickdraw
  - ▶ PIO, pre-burn education and notification
- ▶ Multiple Vegetation Types and Wildlife Habitat







# Opportunities and Rewards

- ▶ Relationships built and strengthened:
  - ▶ El Dorado Irrigation District
  - ▶ Washoe Tribe
  - ▶ Sierra Nevada Conservancy
  - ▶ Sierra Forest Legacy and Trout Unlimited
- ▶ Public Education of the Ecological and Social Benefits of Prescribed Burning
  - ▶ Interagency and Partners
- ▶ Preservation of important Tribal Lands and Municipal Watersheds
- ▶ Preservation for future recreation use





Questions / Comments ?

# Caples Ecological Restoration Project Eldorado National Forest

Teresa Riesenhuber  
Forest Fuels & Fire Planner  
[triesenhuber@fs.fed.us](mailto:triesenhuber@fs.fed.us)  
530-621-5223 office